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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
AMENDMENT "C" ACCOMPANYING RCE REQUEST

APPLICANTS: Shinichiro Yamada et al. ATTY DOCKET NO: 09792909-4734
SERIAL NO.: 09/747,627 GROUP ART UNIT: 1745
DATE FILED: December 22, 2000 EXAMINER: J. Crepeau
INVENTION: "METHODS OF PRODUCING NEGATIVE ELECTRODE
MATERIAL, NEGATIVE ELECTRODE, AND NON-AQUEOUS
ELECTROLYTE BATTERY"

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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This Amendment "C" accompanies an RCE Request, and is filed in response to the Final Office Action of October 25, 2002 and the Advisory Action of February 14, 2003. Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Amendment "B" After Final of February 3, 2003 was not entered. Please reconsider the application in view of the amendment and remarks presented below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 6 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a negative electrode using a negative electrode black mix containing a negative electrode material composed of a mixture of a non-carbon material and a carbon material, comprising the steps of:

pulverizing and classifying each of the non-carbon material and the carbon material in an inert gas atmosphere;

mixing the non-carbon material and the carbon material in an inert gas atmosphere; and
applying the negative electrode black mix on a negative electrode collector and drying the negative electrode black mix in an inert gas atmosphere or a dry air atmosphere,

wherein a ratio of an average particle size R_M of the non-carbon material in the negative electrode material to an average particle size R_C of the carbon material in the negative electrode material is in a range of $R_M/R_C \leq 1$.